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## COVETING "THE MARSEILLAISE"

SIR,—In memory of the visit of the French Commission to the United States, and as a mark and proof of a virtual alliance between this Republic and the brother Republic of France in the glorious cause of Liberty, I venture to propose that *The Marseillaise* be added to the national songs of America.

In that superb cry of triumphant Freedom, the most vibrant and stirring martial music that ever was composed is united to words which are equally magnificent, to words which breathe the very soul of liberty and republicanism in deadly conflict with tyranny and despotism, and which are, moreover, singularly fitted to the present tremendous crisis.

BERTRAND SHADWELL.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

[Nothing would give us greater pleasure than to see *The Marseillaise* "added to the national songs of America"; and inasmuch as the music of what appears to be regarded as our chief national song—*The Star-Spangled Banner*—was composed by an Englishman, it would seem to be in keeping with our complacent habits of utilization to adopt a song written by a Frenchman, were it not for the somewhat inconvenient fact that *The Marseillaise* stands in rather an intimate relation to French hearts. Moreover, we cannot escape the conviction that the national song of a country should be composed by one of its own sons (or daughters). That *The Star-Spangled Banner* is not, musically, native to America, is its prime defect—quite aside from the fact that the words are commonplace, the music paltry and hard to sing. Would that some composer of genius might set to the stirring Battle Hymn of Mrs. Howe music both noble, contagious, and of large simplicity! Then we should have a National Anthem fit to set beside the splendid songs of France, Russia, England, and Austria.—EDITOR.]

## A QUESTION FOR THE DOCTORS

SIR,—It is claimed by public speakers, and by many writers as well as by some physicians, that alcohol has no use at the present time in the practice of the best physicians. It is also claimed that there are substitutes for this indispensable element of nature, and that these substitutes are as effective and produce none of the evil effects of the universal stimulant and preservative. The public would like to know if there is a substitute for alcohol. The reply of some doctors when they were asked this question was that there is no substitute for alcohol.

This has nothing to do with the question of temperance; I merely ask what the best medical authority has decided upon this question. No one appears to know definitely what the practice is in the hospitals of this country, or what the position of the Government is regarding the use of this stimulant by surgeons and doctors in the Army and Navy. A great many people would like to know just what use alcohol serves in the treatment of the wounded among the nations at war across the sea.

S. R. SMITH.

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